

**College of San Mateo**  
**Official Course Outline**

**1. COURSE ID:** FILM 135    **TITLE:** Film Genres

**Units:** 4.0 units    **Hours/Semester:** 64.0-72.0 Lecture hours; 128.0-144.0 Homework hours; 192.0-216.0 Total Student Learning hours

**Method of Grading:** Grade Option (Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass)

**2. COURSE DESIGNATION:**

**Degree Credit**

**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC

**AA/AS Degree Requirements:**

CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5c. Humanities

**CSU GE:**

CSU GE Area C: ARTS AND HUMANITIES: C1 - Arts (Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theater)

**IGETC:**

IGETC Area 3: ARTS AND HUMANITIES: A: Arts

**3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Catalog Description:**

Critical survey of a variety of film genres, including gangster, musical, comedy, film noir, Westerns, and others. Hollywood, independent and international examples, from different time periods.

**4. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. distinguish and apply critical categories in the study of film genres
2. identify key film genres and their contributions to film history and film art
3. critically articulate the relationship between film genres and the development of film art

**5. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. distinguish and apply critical categories in the study of film genres
2. identify key film genres and their contributions to film history and film art
3. critically articulate the relationship between film genres and the development of film art

**6. COURSE CONTENT:**

**Lecture Content:**

Film Genres

This course is intended to develop and refine your critical abilities regarding film study by exploring the topic of film genres. As moviegoers, we know the difference between a comedy and a drama, a Western and a musical, an action flick and a chick flick, a historical film and a science fiction. Always a key ingredient of the American movie industry, film genres are the types of stories movies tell. But film genres also tell much about who we are.

For each film genre, we will view a prime example from classical Hollywood (1930-1960), New Hollywood (1970s and 1980s) and postmodern contemporary (1990s to the present). We will develop a good sense of the stars, characters, narrative and film style associated with each film genre. We will also make some comparisons between American and international takes on film genres. Our main goals are to appreciate the artistic variations on film genres across time and place, and to appreciate how film genres hold an entertaining mirror up to our cultural values, conflicts and dreams.

**Gangster:**

1930s classics: Little Caesar (1930), Scarface (1931), Public Enemy (1932)

1970s revisions: The Godfather (1972), Mean Streets (1973), Point Blank (1976)

1990s hip-hop: Boyz N the Hood (1992), Menace II Society (1993), Dead Presidents (1995)

**Horror:**

Universal horror classics: Frankenstein (1931), Dracula (1932), Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde (1932)

British Hammer horror 1950s: Curse of Frankenstein (1958), Horror of Dracula (1958), The Mummy (1959)

1980s slashers: Halloween (1978), Friday the 13th (1980), Nightmare on Elm Street (1988)

**Musicals:**

1950s MGM classics: *Singing in the Rain* (1952), *The Bandwagon* (1956), *Two Weeks in Another Town* (1958)

1970s rock musicals: *Tommy* (1975), *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1975), *Pink Floyd The Wall* (1982)

Music videos/films: *Thriller* (1985), *Vogue* (1992), *Moulin Rouge* (2001)

**Lab Content:**

None

**TBA Hours Content:**

None

**7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Critique
- C. Discussion

**8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS**

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

**Writing Assignments:**

1. In-class essays on broad concepts and analysis
2. In-class quizzes on vocabulary and key terms
3. Take-home papers for further comparative exploration and possibly research

**Reading Assignments:**

Assigned readings in textbooks

**Other Outside Assignments:**

Outside screenings and research on the Internet

**9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Exams/Tests
- C. Group Projects
- D. Papers
- E. Quizzes

**10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):**

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Grant, Barry Keith. *Film Genres: The Basics*, ed. Routledge, 2023
- B. Altman, Rick. *Film/Genre*, ed. British Film Institute, 2019
- C. Teo, Stephen. *Eastern Westerns*, ed. Routledge, 2016
- D. Friedman & Desser. *An Introduction to Film Genres*, ed. WW Norton, 2013

**Origination Date:** March 2024

**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** April 2024

**Effective Term:** Fall 2024

**Course Originator:** David Laderman